

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Rural District Council of Louth

For the Year 1920

BY

W. J. Wilkinson, M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health.



LOUTH :

PRINTED BY W. K. MORTON & SONS,
MARKET PLACE,
1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Louth Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

By the instruction of your Public Health Acts Committee and with the sanction of the Ministry of Health, I have prepared this report for the whole of 1920, although I did not take office until July 1st, 1920, and I beg to submit it for your consideration.

1. Natural and Social Conditions.

Population, Census 1911	...	...	18,285
Estimated, 1920	...	...	18,094
Area	...	...	146,090 acres
Number of Parishes	...	...	88

The district is wholly rural, about half on the western side called the Wolds being hilly and the other half on the eastern side being flat, although now well drained, is called the Marsh.

The chief occupation is agriculture, and the general health of the inhabitants is therefore very good.

In 1920 the total of births was 386 and the birth rate per thousand 21.33. For England and Wales the birth rate was 25.4

The total number of deaths was 238 and the death rate per thousand 13.15. For England and Wales the death rate was 12.4.

Of the deaths occurring in the district more than 60% were of people who were of the age of 60 years and upwards. Under 10% were of children under 1 year of age.

2. Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.

There is no public water supply in the district, the water coming chiefly from artesian wells, overflowing springs and a few surface wells. Witheall, North and South Elkington, Raithby, Stenigot, Walmsgate and some of the large wold farms have their water pumped up by waterwheels, rams or windmills.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There has been no complaint of any pollution during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are very few systems of drainage, the houses being drained according to their position and individual requirements. The sewerage system at Welton-le-wold had to be repaired after the flood of May 29th, 1920.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Owing to the rural nature of the district there are very few water closets. Twenty-five privies were converted into pail closets during the year and 17 new pail closets erected.

SCAVENGING.

There is no public system of scavenging. The method of final disposal is on the land.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Informal notices served for abatement of nuisances	...	30
Formal notices	do. do. do.	4
Rooms in houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	44
Schools disinfected	...	2
New pail closets erected	...	17
Privies converted into pail closets	...	25
Foul privies done away with	...	4
Foul W.C. removed	...	1
Drains repaired, relaid, etc	...	26
Drains, new, laid	...	4
Sewerage tanks cleaned out	..	3
Foul dykes cleaned out	...	7
Foul accumulations removed	...	32
New urinals erected	...	4
Foul urinal removed	...	1
Urinal repaired	...	1
Wells or pumps repaired	...	2
New bore pipes sunk	...	2

COMMON LODGING HOUSES. None.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manure works at Donington-on-Bain, Binbrook, Marsh-chapel, North Thoresby and Walmsgate have been carried on satisfactorily.

SCHOOLS.

The majority of the schools in the district have been inspected during the year.

The out-offices at several of the schools are not satisfactory, but the high cost of labour and material has made it necessary to postpone alterations, except in one or two of the worst cases which have been remedied.

The schools at Hainton and Conisholme were disinfected after Scarlet Fever.

Schools, as follows, were closed on account of

Measles. Welton-le-Wold, North Cockerington, Withcall,
Maltby-le-Marsh.

Scarlet Fever. Hainton and Conisholme.

Mumps. Kelstern.

3. Food.

(a). MILK.

There is a fair supply of milk of very good quality which is all produced in the district.

There are 11 dairies which have been regularly inspected and found in good condition.

(b). MEAT.

There is no public abattoir.

No meat has been condemned during the year.

The Slaughterhouses have been inspected and except for a few minor defects which have been remedied, all were found in a satisfactory condition.

Number of slaughterhouses.

1914.	January, 1920.	December, 1920.
19.	19.	27.

(c). OTHER FOODS.

No case of unsound food has been reported.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 16 which have been inspected and found to be in good order.

There are no underground bakehouses.

4. **Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

(a). PREVALENCE.

The following cases of Infectious diseases were notified during the year.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	28
Enteric Fever	...	...	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	22
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	10
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	1
Total			75

DIPHTHERIA (5)

All these cases were in separate places, and except in one case, when the patient contracted the disease out of the district, it was not possible to trace the source of infection. Antitoxin is supplied free of charge and was used in all the above cases. There were no deaths.

SCARLET FEVER (28)

Ten of these cases were at Conisholme and were imported by a child who had been staying out of the district and had a slight attack for which she was not medically attended. Six cases were in one house at North Cotes, where one child died. Origin of these cases not known. The other cases were scattered over different parts of the district.

ENTERIC FEVER (5).

There was an outbreak of Enteric Fever in July, starting at South Elkington. Three men living in a foreman's house were taken ill and sent to their homes in different parts of the district where each eventually developed enteric fever. They had, about a fortnight previously, attempted to clean out a very foul overflowing cess-pit draining the stables, and probably contracted the disease there. There were two other cases later, in the foreman's house, but by careful isolation and disinfection and the inoculation of all contacts who were willing to be done, further spread of the disease was prevented. One man died.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS (1).

This case was a girl, aged 18, who was taken ill on Jan. 26th, and died on March 31st.

MALARIA (1).

This case was a demobilized soldier who had contracted the disease at Salonika.

(b). CONTROL.

In all cases the premises are visited on receipt of notification, instructions are given as to isolation and disinfection, and disinfectants are supplied. Depots have been set up in six different places in the district from which (in addition to the Sanitary Inspector's house in Louth), disinfectants can be obtained. All houses are disinfected by Formalin after cases of infectious diseases. Diphtheria Antitoxin and Mixed Typhoid Vaccine are supplied when necessary.

5. **Housing.**

(a). GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Housing conditions of the Working Classes in the district are, on the whole, very good. It is estimated that 234 new houses may be required. Population is estimated at 18,094, as against 18,285 in 1911.

(b). OVERCROWDING.

There are very few cases of overcrowding in the district and no formal action had to be taken during the year.

(c). FITNESS OF HOUSES.

General standard of housing is as a rule good. Chief defects are, dampness, lack of proper lighting and ventilation. Several defects have been remedied after informal notice given to the landlord, but owing to the high cost of labour and material, and the difficulty in obtaining the latter, progress has necessarily been slow.

In conclusion I beg to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Acts Committee for the kindness and consideration they have shown to me, during this, my first year of office as Medical Officer of Health.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. WILKINSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX NO 1.

Causes of death in RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH, during the year 1920.

Causes of Death (Civilians only).				Males.		Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	112	...	126
1 Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1	...	—
2 Small-pox	...	...	...	—	...	—
3 Measles	...	...	...	1	...	—
4 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	...	1
5 Whooping cough	...	...	...	1	...	1
6 Diphtheria and croup	...	...	...	—	...	—
7 Influenza	...	...	...	2	...	1
8 Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	...	—
9 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	6	...	16
10 Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	1	...	—
11 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	3	...	3
12 Cancer, Malignant disease	...	...	...	8	...	14
13 Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	2	...	2
14 Meningitis	...	...	...	—	...	1
15 Organic Heart disease	...	...	...	18	...	13
16 Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	...	6
17 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	6	...	1
18 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	..	2
19 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years).	...	...	...	—	...	—
20 Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	—	..	1
21 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	1	...	1
21A Alcoholism	...	...	...	—	...	—
22 Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	...	...	4	...	1
23 Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	—	...	—
24 Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	3
25 Congenital debility, &c.	...	...	...	9	...	10
26 Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	...	6	...	5
27 Suicide	...	...	...	1	...	—
28 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	37	...	43
29 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	...	1
Special Causes (included above)						
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	...	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age						
Total	...	...	...	13	...	11
Illegitimate	...	..	...	1	..	1
TOTAL BIRTHS						
Legitimate	...	...	...	177	...	175
Illegitimate	...	...	...	14	...	20

POPULATION For Births and Deaths

18,094

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	-	-	-	18,094
(2) General death-rate	-	-	-	13·15
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	-	-	-	1·60
(4) Infantile mortality	-	-	-	1·32
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	-	-	-	4,600
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses	-	-	-	4,000
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	-	-	-	19

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.**I.—Inspection.**

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	-	-	1,130
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	-	-	-	285
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	-	-	105
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	-	-	66

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	-	-	-	66
---	---	---	---	----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | - | - | - | - | - |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit— | | | | | |
| (a) by owners | - | - | - | - | |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | - | - | - | - | |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. | - | - | - | - | |

Nil.

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | - | - | - | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | | | | |
| (a) by owners | - | - | - | 4 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | - | - | - | — |